

What is claimed:

1. A method for creating a shopping list, purchasing items on the shopping list, and obtaining the purchased shopping list items in hand, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) a portable interface unit including a data system for receiving product identification data representing a product selected by a consumer for inquiry and a data communication system for communicating data on a first network infrastructure;
  - (b) a consumer gateway for providing an interface between the first network infrastructure and the portable interface unit;
  - (c) a merchant's computer system including a communication system for receiving identification data requests over a second network infrastructure and a memory for storing data representing the product data identification, the first network infrastructure being coupled to the second infrastructure; and
  - (d) displaying the information associated with the product identifier on a display.
2. The system for creating shopping list information of claim 1, wherein the first network infrastructure is a local area network in a consumer's home or workplace and the second network infrastructure is the Internet.
3. The system for creating shopping list information of claim 1, where the merchant's computer system includes a database matching the product identification data to product descriptive information related to the product identifier.

4. The system for building shopping list information of claim 3, where the merchant's computer system includes a database matching the product identification data to complimentary information related to the product, the complimentary information representing other products which are complimentary with the product.

5. A method for creating a shopping list as recited in claim 1, including the step of utilizing the uniform product code for the product identifier.

6. A method for obtaining the purchased shopping list items in hand as recited in claim 1, including one of the following steps;

(a) the customer shopping in a store's aisles for the shopping list items;

(b) the shopping list items being delivered to the customer; and

(c) the customer picking up the items, which have been picked and packed by the merchant, in a drive through service offered by the merchant.

7. The system for building a shopping list of claim 1, wherein the data communication system for communicating data on a first network infrastructure is compatible with the Bluetooth radio frequency standard.

8. The system for building a shopping list of claim 1, wherein the consumer gateway is a personal computer, or a personal digital assistant, or an Internet appliance, or a cell phone.

9. A system for scanning shopping list item bar codes, comprising:

(a) one or more host computers, each host computer having an associated communications interface channel to receive data from a portable bar code scanner;

(b) logic on the host computers that stores frequently used shopping list information under the control of the item's bar code;

(c) a portable bar code scanner, comprising;

(i) a processor;

(ii) a memory that stores information under the control of the processor;

(iii) logic that obtains a product identifier;

(iv) logic that creates a query based on the product identifier;

(v) logic that transmits the product identifier to one or more host computers;

(vi) logic that displays the information associated with the product identifier, received from one or more host computers, on a display; and

(vii) wherein the information relates to at least one of product description, product cost, date on which product identifier was scanned and required quantity of said product.

10. The system for building a shopping list of claim 9, wherein the host computer's communications interface channel is a radio frequency channel for communicating data between a host computer and the portable bar code scanner.

11. The system for building a shopping list of claim 10, wherein the radio frequency channel is compatible with the Bluetooth radio frequency standard.

12. A method for creating a shopping list as recited in claim 9, including the step of utilizing the uniform product code for the product identifier.

13. The system for building a shopping list of claim 9, wherein the host computer is a personal computer, or a personal digital assistant, or an Internet appliance, or a cell phone.

13. The system for building a shopping list of claim 9, wherein the host computer is a personal computer, or a personal digital assistant, or an Internet appliance, or a cell phone.